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The refreshment department is in course of re-organization; and new dining-rooms and smoking-rooms are being provided by the contractors with as much expedition as their nature and extent will permit. The season tickets will be one uniform price, viz., one guinea, admitting to the Palace on all occasions and fêtes; but the directors have "reserved to themselves the power of withholding the right of admission to the holders of these tickets on special days, not exceeding six in number during the year, should they find it for the interests of the company to do so for any additional fêtes, or extraordinary attractions beyond those already announced." The season commences on the 1st of May.

A new orchestra is in course of erection in the centre transept, which, besides being better adapted to the building, will also be an acoustical improvement.

The largest and purest gold nugget yet discovered will also be exhibited. It weighs 1,743oz. 8dwt., and is of the computed value of £7,500. No less than £10,000 was offered for it at Melbourne.

The collection of photographic views, by Messrs. Negretti and Zambra, photographers to the Crystal Palace, has received within the last few days some most interesting additions, being a large number of views taken immediately after the late earthquake in Naples.

It will be seen from this short statement of the programme, that the attractions for the forthcoming season are of such a nature as to ensure the support and patronage of the public.

TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

At the ninth anniversary meeting of the Association for promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge, Mr. Milner Gibson announced that he intended shortly to bring the subject of the Repeal of the Paper Duty before the House of Commons. The committee expressed a hope that their friends would use every exertion to obtain signatures to a petition to Parliament, for the purpose of furthering this most desirable object. Forms of petition may be obtained on application, either personally or by post, at the office of the Association, No. 10, Ampton-place, Gray's Inn-road.

A deputation from the society, including Mr. M. Gibson, M.P., Mr. Bright, M.P., Mr. Ayrton, M.P., Mr. H. Ingram, M.P., Mr. Craufurd, M.P., Messrs. Collet (secretary), Wilson, Moore, and Elt, waited upon the Earl of Derby, on the 15th ult., to urge upon his Lordship the Repeal of the Paper Duty. A memorial was read, in which it was objected to the Paper Duty that it impeded instruction, hindered the extension of the manufacture, and was injurious to the revenue. In the second part of the memorial, complaint was made of the enactments of the law under which persons establishing newspapers are required to give security for the payment of fines or penalties to which they may never become liable under the law of libel.

Several members of the deputation addressed his Lordship, who said he was quite prepared to agree, in a great measure, with what had been urged on the subject of the Paper Duty, and no doubt the regulations of the assize added to the difficulty in the way of operators in the trade. Unfortunately, at the present time, the affairs of the State were such that an increased expenditure was rendered necessary. If it had been otherwise, and there had been an overflowing Exchequer, he should have approved very much of a proposition to take off the Duty on Paper. It would add very greatly to the difficulties of the £1,000,000, which was the amount derived from the Paper Government if they had to provide for so large a sum as Duty, and he was afraid that for the present year he could hold out no hopes to the deputation. He admitted, however, that the Paper Duty was a tax which, both in principle and detail, was open to grave objections, and which it would be most desirable to repeal.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence,—otherwise they cannot be inserted. It frequently occurs, that letters and papers respecting concerts which have taken place early in the month, do not reach us till the day of publication.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ABINGDON.—A classical and popular selection of music was given on the 22nd of April, in the Town Hall, for the benefit of the Mechanics' Institute. The music was performed by amateurs of the town, with the aid of professional vocal students, under the management of Mr. Edward Shepherd. It is satisfactory to learn that the funds of the institute will be greatly benefitted by the concert.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—The members of the Barrow Choral Society gave a concert of vocal music (sacred and secular), in the School-room, Barrow, on the 13th of April. The society is greatly indebted to the lady members, who have come forward most readily in establishing this society, which now can be classed amongst the first societies of the locality. The accompaniments were well executed by Mr. Gallop.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Festival Choral Society performed *Elijah*, for the first time, on the 6th of April, in the Town Hall. The principal parts were sung by Mrs. Sunderland, Mrs. Hayward, Mr. Miranda, and Mr. Thomas. The choruses were admirably given, and the whole performance was most creditable to the society. Much praise is due to the conductor, Mr. Stockley, for his zeal and energy in getting up this oratorio. Mr. Stimpson presided at the organ, and the band was led by Mr. Hayward.

BLYTH.—On Good Friday evening, Fawcett's oratorio, entitled *Paradise*, was performed, under the auspices of the Blyth Harmonic Society. The chorus, numbering about 80, was strengthened by several members of the Tynemouth Sacred Harmonic Society. The principal solo singers were Misses Green and Redpath, Messrs. Robson, Barker, and Hindhaugh. Mr. S. Liddle accompanied on the harmonium, Mr. Wood conducted, and Mr. Henderson led the band.

BRINKLOW (Coventry).—A concert, consisting of glees, part-songs, &c., was given here on the 19th of April. The principal vocalists were Miss Ashmore and Mr. Ashmore. Miss Haynes accompanied on the pianoforte.

CANTERBURY.—The Canterbury Catch Club, conducted by Mr. Longhurst, concluded its 78th season on the 7th of April, when the room was well filled with members and visitors, who evidently enjoyed the excellent concert provided for their entertainment.

CANTERBURY.—The Canterbury Apollonian Club, under the able direction of Messrs. G. Nicholson and Tench

(Continued on page 243.)

BRIEF CHRONICLE—continued from page 238.

White, had their last concert of the season on the 8th of April. Miss Juliet Power and Mrs. Manley gave their valuable assistance on the occasion; and Mr. Plant, Mr. Newsome, and others, contributed to make this concert perhaps the best of the series.

CANTERBURY.—Mr. Gough's annual vocal and instrumental concert took place on the 14th of April, at St. George's Hall,—which was in all respects most successful. The principal singers were Miss Somerville, Mr. T. Young, Mr. G. A. Cooper, and Mr. W. C. Gough. Pianoforte, Mr. Nelson Trouse.

CARDIFF.—On the 6th of April, a glee and madrigal concert took place in the Town Hall, when the principal vocalists were Mr. G. Richards, Mr. Hargrave, Mr. Hunt, and Mr. Amos Richards, of Gloucester Cathedral Choir. Mr. Atkinson presided at the pianoforte.

CARLISLE.—The Choral Society's fourth annual concert took place on the 13th ult., in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall. The oratorio was *Judas Maccabæus*. The band and chorus numbered 80 musicians, under the management of Mr. Buttifant. The music was well executed, and the concert was altogether successful.

CECILIAN SOCIETY (Albion Hall).—Handel's *Israel in Egypt* was performed on the 27th ult., by the above society. Principal vocalists,—Miss Annie Cox, Miss Boden, Mr. J. W. Morgan (of Rochester Cathedral), Mr. Beardwell, and Mr. Harper; and a band and chorus of 100 performers. Conductor, Mr. Boardman. Organist, Mr. Baines.

CHARD.—The Harmonic Society of this town gave its second rehearsal for the present year, at the Assembly Rooms, on the 14th of April, under the direction of Mr. Tozer. The performance consisted of secular music only, which was neatly executed by the members of the society.

CHELTENHAM.—Mr. B. Joesbury's concert took place at the Assembly Rooms on the 7th of April. The programme comprised sacred and secular compositions,—among the former being included a new oratorio, entitled *Judith*, the work of Mr. Joesbury himself. The oratorio received a special mark of approbation by the audience demanding an encore of its last portion. The principal vocalists were Miss Joesbury, Miss L. Joesbury, Miss Tovey, Mrs. Smith, Mr. J. Keeling, and Miss Bladder, assisted by an efficient chorus. Mr. B. Joesbury presided at the pianoforte.

CHELTENHAM.—The "Open Night" of the Amateur Harmonic Society, on the 28th of March, at the Montpellier Rotunda, afforded a gratifying proof of the progress made in the musical education of the middle classes, by whom this society is chiefly supported, and who, upon this occasion, evinced a devotion to the art, and a proficiency in the execution of its scientific intricacies, which could hardly have been expected. The oratorio of *Judas Maccabæus* was performed throughout most creditably,—the choruses being rendered with considerable spirit, and, generally, going well together. Several of the solos, &c., were also well sung, and everybody present appeared to be much gratified.

CHICHESTER.—On the 8th ult., the lay vicars, assisted by Miss Payne, gave their annual concert, at the Assembly Rooms, which was well attended. Mr. H. Bennett accompanied on the pianoforte, and tended greatly to the success of the concert.

CHICHESTER.—The concluding rehearsal of the Singing Class of the Literary Society and Mechanics' Institute, to which the public were admitted by ticket, took place at the Lecture Room of the Society, on the 23rd ult. The first part consisted of sacred pieces; the second of madrigals, &c. The whole went off very creditably. The conductors were Messrs. Pillow and Weller.

CLARE.—On the 15th of April, Mr. Frye, organist of Saffron Walden, delivered, to a crowded audience, an interesting lecture on Church Music, when some of the

best anthems of Greene, Boyce, Battishill, and others, were given in illustration, by Mesdames Gilbert and Paget, of London, and other local talent.

CLIFTON.—The Vocal Association, which has now been established rather more than a twelvemonth, made its first appearance in public at Miss Jackson's annual concert, on the 15th of last month. The society achieved a decided success, and may now be said to be firmly established. They were conducted by an amateur, with whom the society originated. Miss Kemble and Mr. Sims Reeves were the principal vocalists. The room was crammed, there being more than twelve hundred persons present.

CHERTSEY CHORAL ASSOCIATION.—The first concert of this association took place in the Town Hall, on the 8th inst., and consisted chiefly of glees and part-songs. The programme was an interesting one, and the general performance very effective. The hall was crowded to excess,—the audience loudly applauding the successful efforts of their fellow townsmen in providing much good music for their gratification. The vicar (who opened the proceedings with an address) takes an active interest in the association, in his capacity of president; and a very distinguished list of the gentry and residents of the neighbourhood are already among the subscribers. In the absence of Mr. Gee, from indisposition, Mr. William Cockett, of Dalston, conducted; and chiefly to his zeal and industry may be attributed the success of this first attempt of the amateurs of Chertsey.

DAWLEY.—The Choral Society gave their fourth amateur concert of sacred music in the Music Hall, on Monday, April 19, conducted in an able manner by Mr. William Corbett, and led by Mr. Henry Jones. The choruses went exceedingly well, and the songs called forth loud applause. The hall was nearly filled, and the concert passed off with much eclat.

DOVER CHORAL CLASSES.—These classes, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Barnes, gave a performance of secular and sacred music on the 23rd ult., at the Wellington Hall. A large audience were highly gratified.

DOVER.—The Choir of the General Baptist Chapel performed a selection of sacred music on the 21st ult., which was much approved of by the congregation.

DEVIZES.—The Choral and Instrumental Society gave their final concert for the season, at the Town Hall, on the 22nd of April, under the direction of their conductor, Mr. C. Clarke. The execution of the music shewed great improvement in the members since their last meeting. At the close of the performance, the members presented their secretary, Mr. Howse, with a gold pencil-case and pen, as a small token of their acknowledgements for his exertions in their behalf.

ERITH.—On Friday, April 9th, a concert was given by the Philharmonic Society, in the Pier Hotel Assembly Rooms, Erith, to a crowded audience. Mr. Hall conducted the band. The vocalists were Miss Haynes, Miss Hall, Mr. G. Dell, and Mr. G. Bliss. The programme consisted of some of the choicest and newest music.

EGHAM.—On the 7th of April, a performance of sacred music was given by the members of the Egham Music Class, in aid of the funds of the Literary Institute, under the management of Mr. S. Smith. The music was generally well executed.

ENNIS (Co. Clare).—The large organ, built by White and Sons, of Dublin, for the Catholic Church of this town, was opened by Mr. John White, Jun., of Dublin, on the 14th of March. The mass was Mozart, No. 12, performed very effectively by a choir from Dublin; and the "Hallelujah" at the end of the service. The instrument is a very fine one, containing 40 stops, 3 benches of keys, and a pedal board of 2½ octaves. Mr. P. Mulholland, late of Lisburn, has been appointed organist.

EXETER HALL.—The "Tonic Sol-Fa Association" gave a concert, at Exeter Hall, on the 15th of April; when a

number of glees, madrigals, &c., were performed in a most correct and efficient style by about 800 voices. The singing of these choristers improves daily, and the most careful training is observable in all their performances. The hall was crowded upon the occasion.

EXETER.—The Oratorio Society of this town performed Handel's *Judas Maccabæus* on the 13th ult.,—conducted by Mr. Price. Miss Banks and Miss Palmer, from London, were engaged to sing the principal soprano and contralto music. The tenor and bass parts were taken by Mr. W. H. Banfill, Mr. May, and Mr. C. Jennings. The choruses were sung with great effect.

HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS.—The London Society for Teaching the Blind held their 20th anniversary on the 13th ult., when the pupils performed a selection of choruses from *Judas Maccabæus* and the *Messiah*, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Barnes, the professor to the society, in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon both pupils and teacher. The pianoforte accompaniments were played by blind pupils. In listening to such a musician-like performance, we scarcely know which most to admire—the perseverance of the poor blind executants, or the patience of their talented teacher.

HAVERIL.—On the 16th of April, an evening concert was given by Mr. Frye, in the Corn Exchange, which was well attended. The vocalists were Mesdames Gilbert and Paget, of London, and Mr. Frye. An efficient band played several overtures in good style.

HONLEY.—A new organ, lately erected in the Independent Chapel of this town, by Messrs. Conacher and Browne, was opened on Good Friday last. In the evening, the oratorio of the *Messiah* was given, with a chorus of about 30 voices. The principal singers were Miss Whitham, Miss Crosland, Miss Fitton, Mr. Whitehead, and Mr. T. Hinchcliffe. Mr. John Bailey presided at the organ.

HOWDEN.—On the 19th ult., a miscellaneous concert was held in the Town Hall. Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Newell, Mr. Westmorland, and Mr. Hinchcliffe were the vocalists, and drew forth great applause from a crowded audience. Miss Milnes presided at the pianoforte.

HUNSLLET.—Handel's oratorio, *Judas Maccabæus* was performed in the National School-room, on the 20th ult., by the Choral Society, assisted by Miss Newell, Master Webster, Mr. Charlesworth, Mr. Brown, Mr. Rider, and Mr. Horn. The band and chorus numbered about fifty performers; the whole being under the able leadership of Mr. Hudson.

LIMEHOUSE CHORAL SOCIETY.—The third concert of the season was given on Tuesday, the 16th ult., at the large National School-room, Copenhagen Place, when the performance consisted of a selection from Handel's *Samson* and the *Dettingen Te Deum*. Principal vocalists,—Miss Fordham, Miss Fentum, Mr. J. W. Morgan (of Rochester Cathedral), and Mr. Beardwell. Trumpet, Mr. R. J. Ward; conductor, Mr. T. Hodd: and a band and chorus of 100 performers. The room was crowded.

MALDON (Essex).—Mr. Bailey, the newly-elected organist of this place, formerly assistant organist at Ely Cathedral, gave his first concert on the 22nd of April. The artistes engaged were Miss Susannah Cole, Mr. Helmore, of Ely Cathedral, and Young Isaac, the violinist. The concert was highly successful as regards the performance.

MANCHESTER.—The Salem Choral Society gave a miscellaneous concert, in aid of the funds of the School Library, on the 16th of April. The principal performers were Misses Whitham and Isherwood, Messrs. Phillips and Dickens, together with the Manchester Athenæum Instrumental Society, numbering twenty performers,—leader, Mr. A. M. Coulthurst,—who very kindly gave their services gratuitously. Pianist and conductor, Mr. Thomas Rawson. The principals and chorus gained several well-merited encores.

MARYLEBONE LITERARY INSTITUTION.—A dramatic performance was given by the members of the Elocution

Class, on the 17th ult., when the performances were *My Husband's Secret*, *Estelle* (arranged for platform representation), and *A capital Match*. The performers were generally well up in their parts, and deserved much praise.

NEW ORGAN.—A new organ has just been completed by Messrs. Bishop and Co., for the Oratory, Brompton. Several performances have taken place at the factory, in Lisson Grove, to exhibit the beauties of the instrument, which is one of the finest organs in any place of worship in London.

NORTHWICH.—On the 6th of April, Mr. G. H. Cromack gave two concerts in the Town Hall, which were most numerous and fashionably attended. The artistes engaged were Miss Maria Wilson, of Hull, and Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner, from the Institution for the Blind, York.

OUNDL.—The Choral Society gave two concerts, morning and evening (under distinguished patronage), on the 6th ult., at the National School-rooms,—the attendance being very large. Several very pleasing duets and solos were sung by different members of the society; and, between the parts, Mr. J. Pitts, of London, performed, with much taste, several pieces on the pianoforte. The entertainment elicited great praise to Mr. F. King, the precentor.

PETERBOROUGH.—On the 24th of March, an evening concert was given by the principal members of the Cathedral Choir, in the Assembly Rooms. The programme of the evening was well selected. The principal singers were Messrs. Scott, Patrick, and Archer. Mr. Green presided at the pianoforte.

PILLOWENLY.—A soirée was held at the Temple Street School-room, on the 28th of March, with a view to raise funds to meet the expenses in connection with the choir of Trinity Church. A small selection of sacred music was performed upon the occasion by the Choral Society, conducted by Mr. E. W. Perrin; and several solos on the harp were well played by Mr. Evans.

PONTYPRIDD (Glamorganshire).—A concert of sacred music was given in the Wesleyan Chapel on Tuesday, the 20th instant. The selections were from Handel's *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabæus*, and Mozart's Twelfth Mass. The principal singers were Miss Farey, Llew Llywyo, Tuvalaw, and Mr. Thomas. The choruses were sung by the Choral Society of the place, conducted by Mr. Thomas Davies, who completed his task very creditably. The society, which was established twelve months ago, is progressing most favourably, and performed the choruses exceedingly well. Mr. Charles Henry Tasker, organist of St. Paul's, Newport, Monmouthshire, presided at the pianoforte and harmonium.

PORTSMOUTH.—The Portsmouth Musical Association gave their third and last subscription concert for the season on the 30th of March. They also gave the first of a series of concerts for the people on the 13th ult., which was attended by nearly 600 persons.

PRESTON.—The Choral Society gave a concert in the Theatre on the 24th ult.; the first part being selections from *Judas Maccabæus*, and the second from *Israel in Egypt*. The performers consisted entirely of the members of the society,—Miss Ashcroft, Mrs. W. Livesey, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Bradley, and Mr. Smith, taking the solos. The choruses were given with great clearness and correctness, showing patient and laborious training on the part of Mr. Parry, who conducted the performance. Mr. Greaves, organist of the Parish Church, presided at the harmonium. The proceeds of the concert go in aid of liquidating the debt of the society.

RADCLIFFE (Lancashire).—A vocal music class was formed in connection with St. Thomas' Sunday School, Radcliffe, in the month of March, 1857, under the teaching of Mr. J. Booth, of Bury. The number of members at its commencement was about forty, which has subsequently increased to nearly sixty. On the 19th of April, this class gave its first public musical entertainment, consisting of

a portion of Handel's *Messiah*, and a selection of secular music, in the commodious School-room of St. Thomas', Radcliffe; on which occasion Mr. James Heys, of Ramsbottom, presided at the harmonium and pianoforte,—and the teacher, Mr. J. Booth, was conductor. About 500 persons were present. The performance was marked by frequent and hearty plaudits from the audience.

SOUTHOURAM.—The Harmonic Society had their annual meeting, in the Wesleyan School-room, on the 5th of April, when a miscellaneous selection of songs, duets, glees, &c., was performed. The principal singers were Misses Laycock and Nettleton, and Messrs. Dobson, Turner, Horsfield, Smith, and Nicholl. Mr. J. E. Turner accompanied on the pianoforte, and Mr. J. Horsfield conducted.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—The first of two concerts for the completion of the Northern Schools, Castle Street, Long Acre, and the organ fund of St. John, Broad Court, Drury Lane, was given at the above hall, on Thursday, April the 8th. The first part of the programme consisted of sacred, and the second part of secular music. The principal singers were Miss Banks, Miss Palmer, Mr. W. Evans, and Mr. Palmer. Mdlle. Prospère presided at the pianoforte in a most efficient manner. The chorus consisted of the members of the church choir, and was under the able conductorship of Mr. Constantine, organist of the church. The pecuniary result of the concert has been satisfactory.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.—The Philharmonic Society's concert took place at the Royal Shakespearean Rooms, on the 6th ult., and passed off in every way satisfactorily. It was the last concert of the season, and shewed great improvement in the members, particularly in the instrumental department. Mr. J. A. Baker, of Birmingham, presided at the organ. The performance consisted chiefly of selections from *Eli* and the *Creation*.

SUNDERLAND.—The *Messiah* was given on the 8th of April, by the Sunderland Sacred Harmonic Society. The solos were taken by the Misses Wilson, Mr. Meier, and Mr. Ferry. The chorus did great credit to the conductor, Mr. Beswick. Mr. Ferry was in excellent voice, and sang "Why do the nations?" with much energy and spirit. Miss Wilson also sang "I know that my Redeemer liveth," with great taste. This was the third concert of the season.

WISBECH.—On the 26th of March, the members of the Singing Class in connection with the Mechanics' Institute performed in good style a selection of sacred music, in the Public Hall, to a very large audience. C. J. Leather, Esq., presided at the harmonium and pianoforte; and it must have been highly gratifying to Mr. Beatley, the conductor of the class, to find that his choir (consisting of about 50 voices) executed such compositions in a style to merit the cordial approbation of the audience.

OBITUARY.—The well-known composer, Chevalier Neukomm, died in Paris on the 3rd of April, aged 81, and was buried on the afternoon of the 5th. This friend and favorite of Talleyrand, pupil of Michael and Joseph Haydn, had travelled through Europe (and the Brazils also), and had lost none of his intellectual activity, having revised a new work shortly before his death. The Chevalier Neukomm was very popular among musical circles, both in Paris and in London, and we were consequently much astonished at seeing no musical or literary celebrities among those who were present in the church. The Chevalier was buried in the cemetery of Mont-martre.—*France Musicale*.

Jean Baptiste Cramer, the oldest of contemporary pianists and composers upon that instrument, and one of the most celebrated musicians of his time, died on the 16th of April, at his residence, in Kennington Terrace. He was born at Mannheim, in 1771, and was consequently in his 88th year. He came to England at a very early age, and at one period his lessons were more in request than any other master; but he was renowned all over the con-

tinental, both as a composer and a pianist. Cramer was a man to whom the musical art is much indebted. No composer has written more copiously for the piano, and the number of his concertos, sonatas, &c., is quite fabulous. He was originally one of the firm of Cramer, Beale, and Co., from which he withdrew about 20 years ago, on a handsome annuity.

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THE NEW OPERA, "LUISA MILLER," composed by VERDI, will be performed, in English and Italian, at two of the London Theatres during the month of May; and the whole of the Music, with both English and Italian words, is published by B. Williams, 11, Paternoster-row.

THE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS' SONGS, as sung by them. All have five of their signatures on the title-page. Upwards of 60 are now published, and are only to be had of B. Williams, 11, Paternoster-row, London. A list of the above forwarded on receipt of a postage-stamp.

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A NIGHT WITH THE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—Pianoforte piece, introducing the following popular airs sung by them, arranged by A. MULLEN:—Katy Dean; I dream of my home; I'm leaving thee in sorrow, Annie; In a little log hut; Hard times; Gentle Annie; Fare-thee-well, Kitty, dear; Hoop de dooden do; We are a band of brothers; Kiss me quick; Burlesque Italian Opera (this piece will be found very useful for teaching). Price 3s., postage free.

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